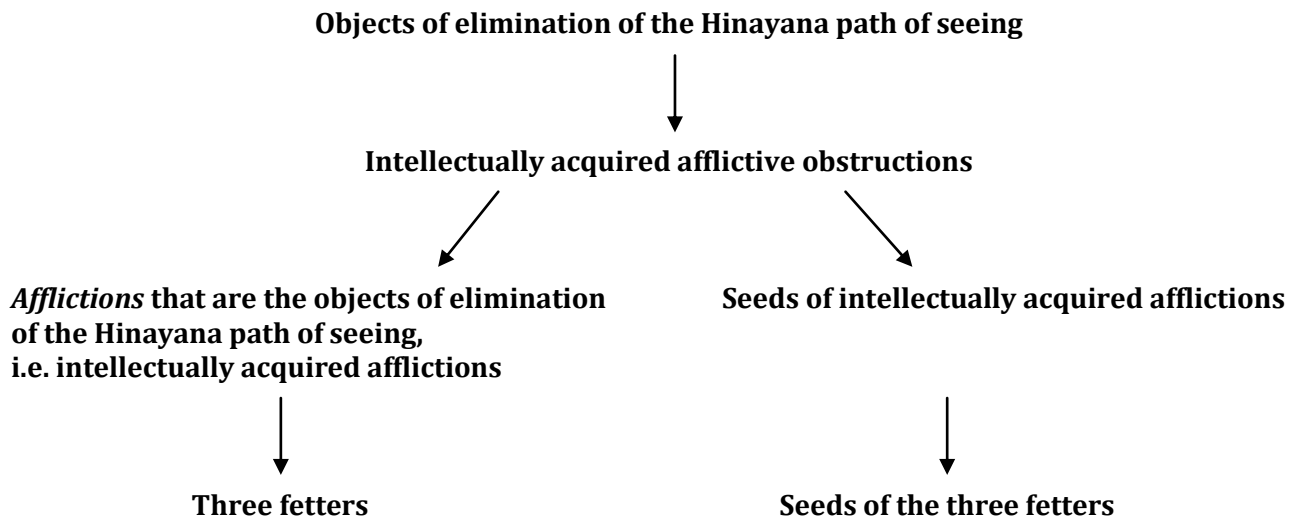


Therefore, the scriptures describe a Hinayana Arya who abides on, for instance, the path of release of the path of seeing as someone who has eliminated the three fetters that are the object of elimination of the path of seeing. This implies that the Hinayana Arya has eradicated all intellectually acquired afflictions and thus also all intellectually acquired *afflictive obstructions*.



Afflictions that are the objects of elimination of the Hinayana path of meditation

Afflictions that are the objects of elimination of the Hinayana path of meditation refer to *innate* afflictions.

Innate afflictions that are the objects of elimination of the path of meditation can be categorized into:

1. Innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm
2. Innate afflictions that pertain to the Higher Realms (i.e. the Form and Formless Realms)

According to Panchen Sonam Drakpa, each of these two categories can be further categorized into mundane afflictions and supramundane afflictions.

Therefore innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm are twofold:

- a) *Mundane* innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm
- b) *Supramundane* innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm

Likewise, innate afflictions that pertain to the Higher Realms are twofold:

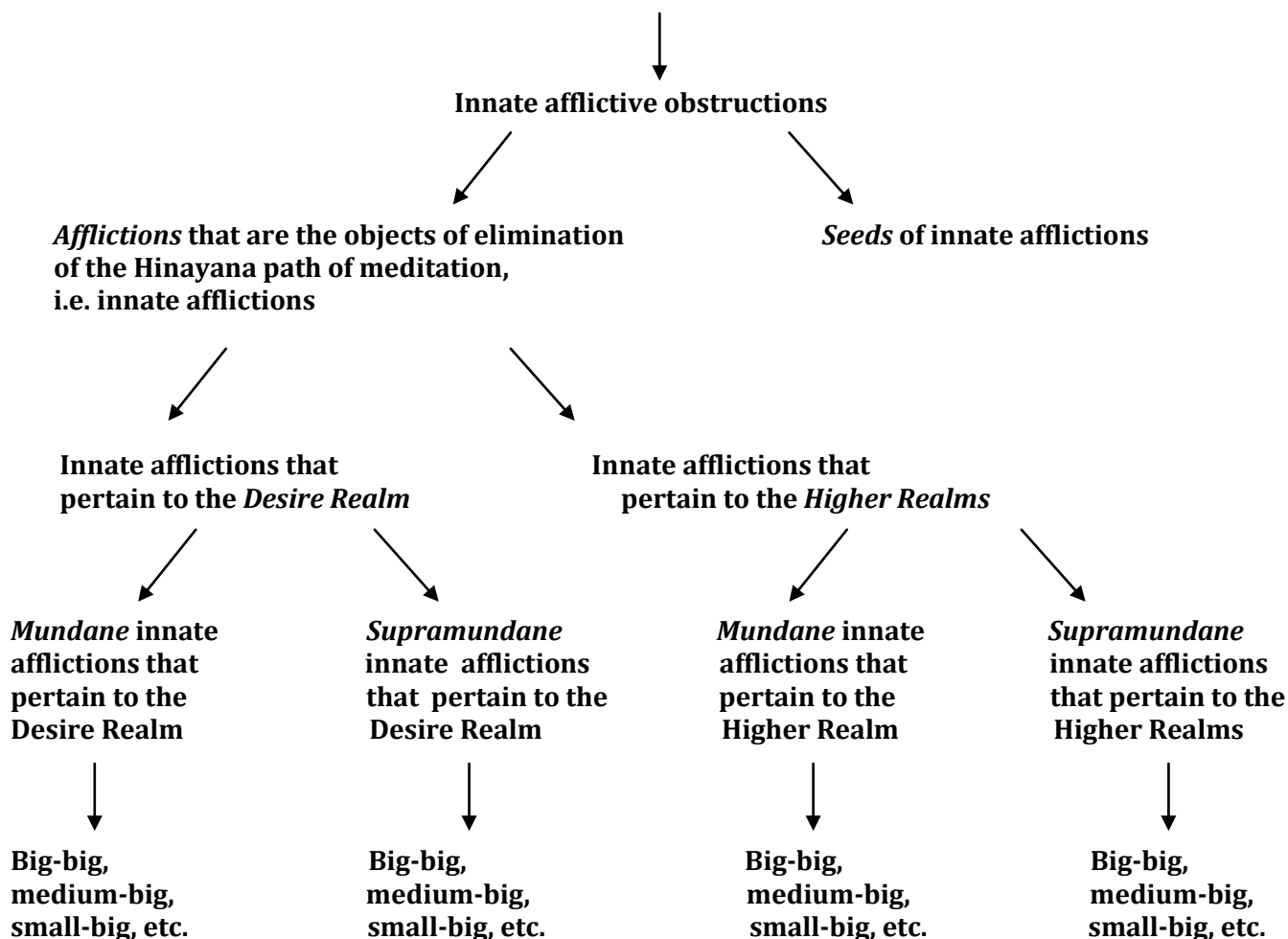
- a) *Mundane* innate afflictions that pertain to the Higher Realms (i.e. the Form and Formless Realms)
- b) *Supramundane* innate afflictions that pertain to the Higher Realms (i.e. the Form and Formless Realms)

Mundane and supramundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm, and mundane and supramundane innate afflictions of the Higher Realms are all nine-fold, for they can each be categorized into big-big, medium-big, small-big, etc. innate afflictions.

The literal translation of, for instance, *mundane innate afflictions of the Desire Realm* / *mundane innate afflictions that pertain to the Desire Realm* is 'Desire Realm afflictions that are the object of elimination of a mundane path of meditation' ('*jig rten pa'i sgom spangs su gyur pa'i 'dod nyon*'), or 'afflictions that are the object of elimination of a mundane path of meditation and pertain to the Desire Realm' ('*dod pa'i sas bsdus kyi 'jig rten pa'i sgom spangs su gyur pa'i nyon mongs*'), but since these translations are quite long and more difficult to comprehend, I chose not to use them.

Please note that these extensive categories of afflictions that are objects of elimination of the path of meditation -- although slightly confusing -- are set forth in order to enable readers to fully comprehend the descriptions of the four results of stream-enterer, once-returner, and so forth.

Objects of elimination of the Hinayana path of meditation



It is essential to understand that there are two ways to remove *mundane* innate afflictions: (1) they can be temporarily eliminated by mundane paths and (2) irrevocably eliminated by supramundane paths.

Supramundane innate afflictions, on the other hand, can *only* be irrevocably eliminated by supramundane paths; they can neither irrevocably nor temporarily be eliminated by mundane paths.

In general, supramundane paths that irrevocably eliminate afflictions can refer to uninterrupted paths that directly realize emptiness on the path of seeing or the path of meditation, while supramundane paths that irrevocably eliminate *innate* afflictions refer only to uninterrupted paths that directly realize emptiness on the path of meditation.

Here, however, mundane paths that temporarily eliminate *mundane* innate afflictions do not refer to paths of accumulation or preparation, but to the preparatory stages of one of the eight meditative absorptions. In order to understand the eight meditative absorptions, their preparatory stages, the temporary elimination of mundane innate afflictions, etc. the following explanation is essential:

THE EIGHT MEDITATIVE ABSORPTIONS

The eight meditative absorptions are explained under the following headings:

- The three realms and nine levels
- Cultivation of the eight meditative absorptions
- Rebirth in one of the nine levels
- The reasons for cultivating meditative absorptions
- The objects of meditation
- The way in which mundane and supramundane uninterrupted paths eliminate innate afflictions

